WOODVALE
PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Connect Group Sermon Aligned Discussion Guide.

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Series Title: The Wonder of Advent. Part 2: Peace
Key Scripture: Matthew 2:1-15
Recorded Sermon: https://youtu.be/XO-MYp5gYGU?si=1-fgpwQX8tiwn0uQ
Date + Speaker: December 14, 2025 Pastor Mark Scarr

The Big Idea: Jesus often disturbs our conscience and comfort in order to lead us into His greater purpose, direction, and lasting peace. As followers of Jesus what feels unsettling is often God getting our attention and guiding us into obedience, protection, and spiritual victory.

Starter: Can you share about a time when something disrupted your plans but later you realized it was actually for the better?

Discussion:

1. Read Matthew 2:1-15. Who was disturbed by the birth of Jesus? How were they disturbed?
2. Pastor Mark suggests that the opposite of biblical peace (Shalom) is disturbance. What would you suggest are antonyms of peace? Why?
3. How can we tell the difference between unhealthy anxiety and a spiritual 'check'?
4. Jesus disturbs us through different means (Spirit, Word, people, circumstances, conscience). Which of these does God most often use to get your attention? Why do you think that is?
5. Re-read Matthew 2:12-14 What does the specific nature of the angel's message tell you about how God reveals His will to us? Why do we think He won't be direct with us? How do you feel about this part of the message, "Stay there until I tell you…"?

Diving Deeper:

6. For the follower of Jesus, peace doesn't always mean the absence of trouble, but the presence of trust and obedience. How has obedience to God brought peace into your life—even when circumstances were difficult?
7. The Magi worshiped Jesus by giving their treasures (Matthew 2:11). How does worship function as spiritual warfare, and what does that look like in everyday life?